

Genealogy Research Checklist and Guidelines

□ Township History books

- Card catalogue and Past Perfect Research People may be useful in searching for names, particularly for books with no indexes.

□ Family Histories

- Shelf list placed after the “Z” box (and most are searchable in the Library section of collections.brucemuseum.ca)

□ Women’s Institute Tweedsmuir History Scrapbooks

- In 1940, the Federated Women’s Institute of Ontario began the initiative for branches to compile “Village History Books”. These are intensely local, scrapbook style history books, compiled by Women’s institute branches.
- A list of the branches and the township / areas they represent is on the shelf after the binders.

□ Censuses up to 1921

- Ancestry.ca search, 1851/1861/1881 index/transcript binders, or scanning microfilm
- 1901 transcript in blue binders also shows address of residence, in some cases
- 1921 census (through ancestry.ca)
- Agricultural Schedules are available for 1861 and 1871 (showing lot/concession, types of crops etc) Must first find district, page & line number from Schedule 1.

□ Vital Statistics (on microfilm and ancestry)

- Available years are restricted by the Vital Statistics Act and other privacy legislation. Records currently available are:
 - Births up to 1913
 - Marriages up to 1928 (Ancestry up to 1935)
 - Deaths up to 1938 (Ancestry up to 1947)

□ Obituaries, Birth, Marriage notice clippings and/or Newspapers

- BGOGS & BCGS Surname Collection (binders, microfiche and CD Rom)
- Newspaper Indexes, including indexes for Chesley, Lucknow, Paisley, Port Elgin & Owen Sound newspapers.
- Newspaper issues for most Bruce County communities are available on microfilm. Speak to Archives staff or see the "Search our Archives" section of brucemuseum.ca/collections-research for a list of newspapers.

□ Estate Files/Wills

- Index for 1859-1969 on top of microfilm cabinet
- Copies of complete estate files on microfilm from 1859-1930

□ Cemetery Transcriptions

- Transcriptions of grave markers at Bruce County Cemeteries.
- For Southampton Cemetery, also see John Weichel's book "Forgotten Lives."

□ Directories / Atlases

- Various years from 1867 to 1910 are available in the Research Room
- See Directories Finding Aid for additional years

□ Land Abstracts (on microfilm)

- Volumes 1 and/or 2 are available for most townships (generally up to early 1950s)
- Useful if a Concession / Lot or legal description is known
- Legal descriptions for properties may be searched using Bruce County Interactive Maps, using the "Query", "Properties by", "Civic Address" links.

□ Photographs

- Digital copies of many photographs are searchable at collections.brucemuseum.ca

□ Archival records

Available when Archives staff are present, or when arrangements have been made with Archives staff in advance. Samples of items available:

- Assessment and Collector's Rolls
- Voters' Lists (Some early lists are available on microfilm - see Yellow duotang folder on short filing cabinet)
- Collection of Private Donations (such as store ledgers, diaries, correspondence, advertisements, business records, clubs/organizations minute books etc.)
- John Weichel's Research Collection